

Thomas Willoughby, 11th Baron Willoughby of Parham
First Lancashire Baron of Parham
Research Notes 2010
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Thomas Willoughby, 11th Baron Willoughby of Parham (c.1602–1691) was the first of five Lancashire Barons of Parham, an hereditary peerage of the House of Lords.(1)

Thomas Was the first of a second Barony created by writ, on his obedience sitting in parliament under this writ he became entitled to the barony by fee, inheritable by his heirs general, both male and female.(2),(3)

Family

Thomas Willoughby was born in circa 1602,(4) the son of Sir Thomas Willoughby and Mary Thornhaugh (Thornley), and grandson of Charles Willoughby, 2nd Baron Willoughby of Parham and Lady Margaret Clinton.(5)

Whittles of Horwich

Hugh Whittle held a significant amount of land at the Rivington side of Horwich stretching from the Horwich Moors to Anderton, held by lease from Sir Thomas Barton, and later Fauconberg. The Whittles connection to Horwich can be traced to a will of Nicolas Whittle of Horwich, 1597, grandfather of Eleanor.(6) The Whittle name appears on many field names on the 1620 map 'The Platt of Horwiche'.(7)(8)

Nicolas Whittles two eldest sons John and Henry (d.1621) had predeceased their father. Henry in his will left 'Old Lords', leased from Sir Thomas Barton of Smithills to his widow Margery, with reversion on her death to his brother Hugh Whittle, however Hugh died February 1624/5. Margery died in 1637, the estate passed in moiety to Hugh's widow Mary for a term of 77 years, the other moiety to be held in trust for Eleanor (Ellen) until she reached the age of 20. (9)

Nicholas Whittle, will of 1587

Henry Whittle, d.1621(10 10) married Margery d.1637

John Whitte, m. 1621, Isabella Fisher(11)

Hugh Whittle d.1624/25 married Mary,
Eleanor, married Thomas Willoughby.

James, d.1613 (12)

Willoughby Whittle Marriage

Thomas Willoughby married Eleanor Whittle, daughter of heir of Hugh and Mary Whittle, of Horwich, Lancashire, England on 22 February 1639. Eleanor is recorded on the Willoughby monument as died age 67 in 1665, her son Jonathan being baptised at Deane, Bolton 21st Dec 1664. (13) There is a possible second marriage, as the Will of Thomas Willoughby wrote in 1690 was proved by Ellen, his widow, then dowager Lady Willoughby, 12th May 1692. In 1696 Jonathan died and his widow Ellen released her claim on his estate to Jonathans mother Ellen, Lady Willoughby.(14)

After his marriage to Eleanor they settled at Old Lord's Farm in Horwich, then a large building. The area is still known as 'Old Lords Estate'.(15 15) Thomas

purchased the Rivington Knoll (Knowle) lands Rivington and in 1653 and in 1663 also bought land in Mellor, Lancashire, where he had bought other property nearby at Witton. The Rivington and Mellor lands remained with his descendants until at least 1715.(16)

Willoughby Sons & Daughters

There were three surviving sons and three daughters of Thomas and Eleanor, Hugh, the eldest son, a second son named Francis who on 28 July 1696 married Eleanor daughter of Thomas Rothwell of Haigh. Francis died 5 September 1696, having married his wife Eleanor the same year, he left a daughter also named Eleanor. The third son was born 21st Dec 1664, baptised at St Mary's, Church, Deane, (17)

Daughters of Thomas and Eleanor were Mary who married Samuel Greenhalgh of Adlington, Sarah and Abigail.(18)

Leadership

Thomas was a staunch puritan and is closely associated with dissenting religious bodies.(19 19) During the English Civil War, he held the rank of a major and fought on the side of the Roundheads. He saw action in the First Battle of Middlewich and Second Battle of Middlewich battles at Middlewich in 1643, and at the Bolton Massacre in 1644.(20)

Thomas Willoughby attended to his duties as a school governor of Rivington Grammar School during the Commonwealth and after Restoration from 1650 until 1691. The school suffered ruin for want of income after 1650 and prior to 1660. Thomas made journeys to London, York and Durham for affidavits and trials and secured the rental income for the school. (21) In the schools records he is noted as Gentleman of Horwich. He served as Chairman of Governors in 1651, 1653-54, 1653, 1670, 1676 and 1683.(22)

Succession

On the death of Thomas Willoughbys cousin, Charles Willoughby, 10th Baron Willoughby of Parham, in 1679, the title should have gone to Henry Willoughby, grandson of Sir Ambrose Willoughby, and great-grandson of Charles Willoughby, 2nd Baron Willoughby of Parham. (23) However, Henry Willoughby had emigrated to Virginia, America and his existence was not known.(24)

Barons Willoughby of Parham, Second Creation 1679

Thomas Willoughby was summoned to parliament as a commoner on 19 May 1685 as the 11th Baron Willoughby of Parham.(25 25) His bloodline thereafter became ennobled and by point of law a new creation Barons Willoughby of Parham, (1679) had been created by writ, a barony by fee, inheritable by his heirs general, both male and female.(26),(27). The right to the barony created by letters patent in 1547 was later claimed by a descendant of Henry Willoughby as Henry Willoughby, 16th Baron Willoughby of Parham.(28)

Death

Thomas died in 1691 aged 89 (29) and was buried under the Chancel of the east window of the old Horwich Parish Church.(30) He was succeeded by his eldest son

Hugh Willoughby, 12th Baron Willoughby of Parham as the 12th Baron Willoughby of Parham,(31).(32) Old Lords, named after 11th Baron of Parham, Map c.1900

Lancashire Barons of Parham

Thomas Willoughby, 11th Baron Willoughby of Parham (c.1602–1691)

Hugh Willoughby, 12th Baron Willoughby of Parham (1637–1712)

Edward Willoughby, 13th Baron Willoughby of Parham (1676–1713)

Charles Willoughby, 14th Baron Willoughby of Parham (1681–1715)

Hugh Willoughby, 15th Baron Willoughby of Parham (c.1714–1765)

References

(1) A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage of England, Ireland and Scotland, London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley, 1831,pg 576

(2) , (26) Cruise on dignities, pg 202

(3) , (27) History of Rivington, Thomas Hampson, 1893, pg 70-71

(4) , (29) , (31 31) Willoughby Monument, Rivington Unitarian Chapel, Rivington, Lancashire, England

(5) , (23) , (24) , (25) , (32) A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage of England, Ireland and Scotland, London: Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley, 1831,pg 577

(6) P.J. Willoughby Higson PhD thesis was “The Lancashire Lords Willoughby of Parham and their Association with Protestant Dissent (1640 - 1765) pg 291

(7) Willoughby Monument, Illustrated Charts by C.J Ward, 1998, Rivington Unitarian Chapel

(8) Platt of Horwiche, 1620 Bolton Archives

(9) P.J. Willoughby Higson PhD thesis was “The Lancashire Lords Willoughby of Parham and their Association with Protestant Dissent (1640 - 1765) pg 292

(10) Burial: 23 Mar 1621 St Mary the Virgin, Deane, Lancashire, England Henricus Whittle of Horwich

(11) Marriage: 18 Apr 1621 St Mary the Virgin, Deane, Lancashire, England, Johannes Whittle et Isabella Fisher de Halliwell

(12) Burial: 18 Apr 1613 St Mary the Virgin, Deane, Lancashire, England Jacobus f. Nicholai Whittle de Horwich

(13) 'Eleanor died age 67 in 1665' Willoughby Monument, Rivington Unitarian Chapel, Rivington, Lancashire, England

(14) P.J. Willoughby Higson PhD thesis was “The Lancashire Lords Willoughby of Parham and their Association with Protestant Dissent (1640 - 1765)pg 446

(15) Cunliffe-Shaw, R. (1940), Records of a Lancashire Family, Preston: The Guardian Press Limited, pg 276

(16) P.J. Willoughby Higson PhD thesis was "The Lancashire Lords Willoughby of Parham and their Association with Protestant Dissent (1640 - 1765) pg 290

(17) Baptism: 21 Dec 1664 St Mary, Deane, Lancashire, England, Jonathan et Hannah f. et fa. Thomae Willoughbie de Horwich

(18) Cunliffe-Shaw, R. (1940), Records of a Lancashire Family, Preston: The Guardian Press Limited .pg 277

(19) , (28) , (30) Cunliffe-Shaw, R. (1940), Records of a Lancashire Family, Preston: The Guardian Press Limited .pg 276

(20) smith M.Dm Rivington, 1989, pg 194

(21) Kay, Margaret M. (1966). The History of Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School (2nd ed.). Manchester: Manchester University Press

(22) Kay, Margaret M. (1966). The History of Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School (2nd ed.). Manchester: Manchester University Press. Pg 191 to 1